Development of Tourist centres in Uttranchal

†295. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourist destinations earmarked in the country which are proposed to be further developed for the benefit of tourists under the current Five Year Plan;

(b) whether such tourist destinations have also been identified in Uttranchal with the help of Central assistance; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) Tourism projects for development of destinations are identified in consultation with concerned State Govemment/UT Administrations every year and sanctioned on merit subject to availability of funds. All the State Governments/UT Administrations including the State Government of Uttranchal have been requested to send specific project proposals for consideration during 2004-05.

Promotion of Health Tourism

296. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to promote health tourism in the country;

(b) whether any proposal for this purpose has been prepared by the Ministry of Tourism;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Ministry of Tourism has identified or targeted any section or sector to help in promoting Indian tourism in other countries of the world; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Health

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and Family Welfare has set up a Task Force with a view to promoting India as a Health Destination for persons across the globe, so as to gainfully utilize the health care expertise and infrastructure available in the country. India's rich heritage in the areas of traditional and natural medicine is being promoted by various state governments and tourist organizations. The Ministry of Tourism has also published a brochure and CD Rom titled 'Body, Mind & Soul' giving information on ancient and proven healing techniques, which are distributed by India Tourism offices in India and overseas.

(d) and (e) Promotion of various tourism products of India is undertaken by the India Tourist offices overseas through advertising in the print and electronic media, participation in fairs and exhibitions, organizing of workshops, seminars and road shows, dissemination of information, brochure support, departmental store promotions, etc. The promotions have been launched under the brand line "Incredible India".

Toxic ground water

†297. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the level of ground water has gone down dangerously;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the ground water at many places has become toxic;

(c) if so, the district-wise details of the ground water in the country and the districts which are severely affected; and

(d) the number of districts in the country where ground water has become severely toxic, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) A long-term anajysis of ground water levels by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources during the years 1994-2003 indicates decline in ground water levels of more than 4 meters in some parts of districts of various States of the country. The names of these

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